

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell compression assembly, comprising:
a carriage unit having at least two opposing side walls maintained in spaced relation by a base member extending ~~therebetween~~ between the at least two opposing side walls at a lower position on the at least two opposing side walls sides,
wherein the at least two opposing side walls and the base member thereby defining define a cradle for receiving fuel cell plates, and wherein the at least two opposing side walls each including includes at least one engagement member on an internal face for engaging with a top member ~~forming the~~ comprising a top of the carriage unit.
2. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the ~~sides includes~~ at least two opposing side walls comprises a plurality of corresponding engagement members spaced at intervals down the at least two opposing side walls.

3. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 2, wherein the engagement members each comprise teeth projecting inwardly towards the an internal volume of the carriage unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 3, wherein at least one of ~~in which each of~~ the teeth has an asymmetric profile allowing passage of the top member ~~thereover~~ in a first direction [[,]] but not in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~any preceding claim in which the~~ at least two opposing side walls are formed of a material having sufficient resilience to allow a top member to be engaged with the carriage unit by passage over and temporary displacement of ~~a relevant~~ an engagement member.

6. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 2, wherein ~~in which~~ the engagement members comprise parallel ribs extending along a substantial lateral extent of the at least two opposing side walls.

7. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 6, wherein ~~in which~~ each of the parallel ribs has an asymmetric profile allowing passage of the top

member ~~thereover~~ in a first direction[[,]] but not in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

8. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 7, wherein ~~in which~~ each of the parallel ribs has a profile allowing disengagement of the top member in a direction parallel to the axes of the parallel ribs.

9. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ each of the at least two opposing side walls includes ventilation apertures ~~therein~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 4, wherein ~~or claim 7 in which~~ the direction of engagement of the top member relative to the at least two opposing ~~to the~~ side walls is perpendicular to the a plane of the base member.

11. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of ~~any preceding claim in which~~ claim 1, wherein the top member ~~includes~~ comprises at least two corresponding engagement members for engaging with each of the engagement members on respective side walls of the carriage unit.

12. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of ~~any preceding claim in which the~~ claim 1, wherein each engagement members are member is situated in ~~recesses in the respective~~ a recess of a side wall.

13. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 12, ~~wherein in which~~ the top member is adapted to be received into the one or more recesses in the at least two opposing side walls.

14. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of ~~any preceding claim in which~~ claim 1, wherein the carriage unit ~~is formed from~~ comprises aluminium.

15. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of ~~any preceding claim in which~~ claim 1, wherein the base member and/or ~~the~~ top member ~~are formed as~~ comprise a box-section aluminium extrusion.

16. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of ~~any preceding claim 1, further including~~ comprising location features ~~situated~~ on external walls of the fuel compression assembly, the location features thereof for the provision of fuel tanks or other system hardware.

17. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell compression assembly, comprising:

a carriage unit cradle for receiving a stack of fuel cell plates and for maintaining at least some of the fuel cell plates in substantially ~~overlying relationship~~ overlapped; and

a closure member adapted to close ~~the~~ a carriage unit containing the carriage unit cradle and to apply pressure to the fuel cell plates therein, by via automatic locking engagement with the carriage unit cradle when the closure member is brought into position with the carriage unit cradle in a first direction that is substantially orthogonal to ~~the~~ a plane of the fuel cell plates.

18. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 17, wherein the carriage unit cradle and the closure member comprise interlocking teeth that inhibit in which return of the closure member in a second direction opposite to the first direction is prevented by interlocking teeth provided in the cradle and in the closure member.

19. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell compression assembly of claim 18, wherein in which the interlocking teeth provide a plurality of automatic locking positions sequentially at varying distances along the first direction.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

~~providing a carriage unit cradle for~~ receiving a plurality of fuel cell plates into a
confinement volume of a carriage unit cradle, the fuel cell plates forming a stack therein;
~~installing said fuel cell plates into the cradle to form a stack;~~
applying a carriage unit closure member to compress the fuel cell plates in a first
direction substantially orthogonal to ~~the~~ a plane of the fuel cell plates and to engage the
closure member with the carriage unit cradle; and
~~the carriage unit providing automatic locking engagement of automatically~~
locking the closure member and the cradle when the closure member ~~has reached an~~
~~appropriate~~ reaches a predefined degree of compression of the fuel cell plates.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further ~~including the step of~~
comprising passing through a series of successive automatic locking engagement
positions between the closure member and the carriage unit cradle which are intermediate
~~the~~ to a starting position and ~~the~~ a final position at which the closure member has reached
an appropriate degree of compression of the fuel cell plates.

22 and 23. (Cancelled)